

From: Jon Pugh
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/12/01 4:37pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Honorable Court:

I have been watching Microsoft for years. I had the opportunity to join Microsoft when I graduated college in 1983 but did not pursue it because I considered them to be the bottom feeders of the software industry even then. Their primary concern at the time was capturing the business software market. Instead, I joined the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory doing high energy physics computer support and then moved to Apple Computer in 1992, where they were doing user centric computing instead of business oriented computing. I am currently working for Adobe Systems, making cross platform publishing software, so that the freedom of words can continue to ring across America.

I have been critical of Microsoft's practices all through this time period. I have watched them destroy company after company. Where are Borland, Ashton-Tate and Lotus these days? Crushed. Even IBM has felt their sting. Apple was nearly crushed and seems to be propped up as a foil from complete monopoly status these days. Netscape has even disappeared in the time this trial has taken.

My email signature for a long time was "What are you doing to stop the Microsoft juggernaut?" and I have written web pages which describe my opinion of how and why Microsoft is so dominant in this industry and so concerned with squishing every opponent they encounter:

<http://www.seanet.com/~jonpugh/microsquish.html>

Watching this anti-trust trial has been difficult. I had such high hopes and was so pleased with the way David Boies roasted Microsoft's defenders, showing them to be biased and incorrect, if not out and out lying. Judge Jackson's exasperation with Microsoft showed me that he was understanding how these people worked, with weasel words and shifting definitions.

Then the world changed with the administration change and the Justice Department caved in completely to Microsoft, as many people expected. Now the various settlements appear to hand Microsoft everything they desire, and my hope that America is fair has begun to wane. I had hope when the Supreme Court upheld Microsoft's determination as a monopoly, but these settlements (both the anti-trust and class action suits) indicate that someone either doesn't understand the situation or is actively working for Microsoft.

Please put some teeth into this settlement or reject it completely. Do not hand the industry over to Microsoft. It will be the instigation of a new Dark Age, when everyone must use Microsoft software or write everything themselves.

And we will write everything ourselves rather than tie ourselves to the horror than is Microsoft.

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